

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The final Office Action dated October 13, 2010 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claims 10 and 19 are hereby amended. Claims 17-18, 21 and 29 are canceled herein without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. New claims 30 and 31 are added. Accordingly, claims 1-16, 19-20, 22-28, and 30-31 are currently pending, of these claims 1-9 and 23-28 are withdrawn from consideration. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 10-12, 14-22, and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Publication No. 2002/0133886 to Severns et al. (hereinafter “Severns”), and in view of U.S. Publication No. 2004/0187527 to Kim et al. (hereinafter “Kim”). *Office Action* at p. 2. Claims 17-18, 19 and 21 have been canceled herein, rendering rejection of these claims moot. As to the remaining claims, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Independent claim 10, as amended, recites a method for operating a laundry device comprising:

- generating steam from water;
- supplying the steam to an inside of a drum where the laundry is introduced for washing laundry without washing water, wherein the steam is supplied to soak the laundry and contaminants of the laundry;
- stopping steam supply after a predetermined period of time; and
- rotating the drum at a high speed more than 2000 RPM to separate centrifugally the contaminants soaked with the steam from the laundry.

Neither *Severns* nor *Kim* teach or suggest each and every feature of claim 10. The claimed inventions requires, “generating steam from water; supplying the steam to an inside of a

drum where the laundry is introduced for washing laundry without washing water, wherein the steam is supplied to soak the laundry and contaminants of the laundry.” In contrast, *Severns* discloses a cleaning process performed with a lipophilic fluid (LCF), which is a non-aqueous solvent capable of removing sebum. *See* paragraphs [0010] and [0027] and Figs 4-9. Although, the Office asserts that *Severns* teaches a method of operating a laundry device by supplying steam, the purpose of supplying steam as disclosed by *Severns* is different from that of the claimed invention. *Office Action* at p. 3. *Severns* uses steam for drying to remove LCF and the moisture contained in water. *Severns* discloses that “air is introduced to the fabric ... to complete the drying of garments without the need for an additional or separate drying apparatus” and “[a]lternatively, a gas such as nitrogen may be used in place of air, or gases such as steam, ozone could be added to the air.” *See* paragraph [0137]. In other words, *Severns* discloses supplying steam to the laundry to dry the lipophilic cleaning fluid (LCF). Therefore, *Severns* discloses a cleaning process that uses a solvent and steam to dry the solvent. Thus, *Severns* does not teach or suggest “generating steam from water and supplying the steam to an inside of a drum where the laundry is introduced for washing laundry without washing water,” as claimed.

Furthermore, although *Kim* discloses supplying steam from water, the washing process in *Kim* is performed with steam and washing water. *See* paragraph [0002]. In particular, the washing process involves supplying a proper amount of wash water to the drum 8 depending upon the amount of clothes. *See* paragraph [0011]. Therefore, *Kim* does not disclose washing process without washing water. For this reason, it is difficult to combine *Severns* with *Kim* because the cleaning mechanisms are different from each other. Moreover, even if, *arguendo*, one did combine *Severns* and *Kim*, they would still not arrive at the claimed invention because neither teach or suggest, “generating steam from water; supplying the steam to an inside of a drum where the laundry is introduced for washing laundry without washing water,” as claimed.

Moreover, neither *Severns* nor *Kim* teach or suggest, “rotating the drum at a high speed more than 2000 RPM to separate centrifugally the contaminated soaked with the stream from the laundry,” as claimed. As acknowledged by the Office, *Severns* and *Kim* do not “teach the rotation speed for separating contaminants being 2000-4000 RPM.” *Office Action* at p. 6. *Severns* may disclose rotating the drum at a high speed. However, the maximum RPM in *Severns* is 450G which means about 1225 RPM. Therefore, *Severns* does not teach or suggest, rotating the drum at a high speed more than 2000 RPM to separate centrifugally the

contaminated soaked with the stream from the laundry,” as claimed. Further, *Kim* does not cure the deficiencies of *Severns*. *Kim* is silent regarding, “rotating the drum at a high speed more than 2000 RPM to separate centrifugally the contaminated soaked with the stream from the laundry,” as claimed.

For at least these reasons, independent claim 10 is not *prima facie* obvious and is patentable over the cited references. Claims 11-12, 14-16, 19-20 and 22 depend from and add further features to independent claim 10. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claims 10-12, 14-16, 19-20 and 22.

Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Severns* and in view of *Kim*, and in further view of U.S. Publication No. 2005/0000033 to Park et al. (hereinafter “*Park*”). *Office Action* at p. 6. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and request reconsideration.

Claim 13 depends from and adds further features to independent claim 10. As discussed above, *Severns* and *Kim* do not, alone or in combination, teach or suggest, “generating steam from water; supplying the steam to an inside of a drum where the laundry is introduced for washing laundry without washing water, wherein the steam is supplied to soak the laundry and contaminants of the laundry;” and “rotating the drum at a high speed more than 2000 RPM to separate centrifugally the contaminants soaked with the steam from the laundry,” as claimed.

Furthermore, *Park* does not cure the deficiencies of *Severns* and *Kim*. Indeed, the Office only relied upon *Park* to purportedly disclose “rotating the drum at a speed of 1000 - 3000 RPM to disperse air throughout the drum.” *Office Action* at p. 7. *Park* does not teach or suggest, generating steam from water; supplying the steam to an inside of a drum where the laundry is introduced for washing laundry without washing water, wherein the steam is supplied to soak the laundry and contaminants of the laundry,” as claimed.

Because none of the cited references, either individually or in combination, teaches or suggests each and every element of independent claim 10, they also fail to teach or suggest each and every element of claim 13, which depends from claim 10. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Office to withdraw the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claim 13.

CONCLUSION

The application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0911.

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Respectfully submitted,

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